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10/823,350

04/12/2004

Ming-Chiang Tsai

4726

25859

7590

01/30/2006

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EXAMINER

SUTHAR, RISHI S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.F.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/823,350

Applicant(s)

TSAI, MING-CHIANG

Examiner

Rishi Suthar

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-16 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-16 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>JP 61126513A</u>                       |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 11 recites the limitation "the housing half" on page 4 of the amended set of claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (Japan Patent No. JP 61126513A – enclosed in this office action with the English abstract).

Regarding claim 1, Hayashi et al. teaches in Fig. 3 a lens assembly for use in a camera comprising a lens holder (10) comprising at least two joined partitions with joining edges; a plurality of lenses (11, 12, 13); wherein at least one partition (10, top) comprising one or more locking protrusions (14) at the joining edge thereof, an adjacent partition (10, bottom) comprising one or more locking receptacles (15) at the joining edge thereof, the locking protrusions are engagingly received in the locking receptacles to join the two partitions; a plurality of partition platforms (16, 17, 18) formed inside at

least one partition for a plurality of lenses; and an opening formed through each partition platform.

Regarding claim 2, Hayashi et al. teaches in Fig. 4 each partition has a top portion (left side of Fig. 4) and a bottom portion (right side of Fig. 4); and the partition platforms are parallel to the top and bottom portions.

Regarding claim 3, Hayashi et al. teaches an opening is defined through the top portion of each partition.

Regarding claim 4, Hayashi et al. teaches an opening is defined through the bottom portion of each partition.

Regarding claim 5, Hayashi et al. teaches in Fig. 3 the openings of the partition platform are aligned with the openings of the top portion and the bottom portion.

Regarding claim 7, Hayashi et al. teaches the locking protrusions comprising a plurality of mounting pins (14) and a plurality of mounting holes (15) corresponding to the mounting pins.

Regarding claim 8, Hayashi et al. teaches at least one partition is secured with said adjacent partition by the mounting pins engaged in the mounting holes (see Fig. 3-5 and abstract).

Regarding claim 10, Hayashi et al. teaches in Fig. 3 a lens assembly for use in a camera comprising a first housing half having a first plurality of partition platforms, a plurality of locking pins protruding from first housing half; and a second housing half being complementary to the first housing half, the second housing half having a second plurality of partition platforms, a plurality of locking holes being defined in the second

housing half for engagingly receiving the locking pins, wherein when the first housing half is assembled with the second housing half to form a complete housing, the partition platforms define a plurality of rooms for receiving a plurality of lenses.

Regarding claim 11, Hayashi et al. teaches in Fig. 3 each housing half comprises a top portion, a bottom portion, and a semi-cylindrical wall extending therebetween, the semi-cylindrical wall defining a joining edge where the housing half adjoins the other housing half.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6, 13, 14, 16, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. (Japan Patent No. JP 61126513A) in view of Feng (U.S. patent No. 5,920,061).

Regarding claims 6 and 13, Hayashi et al. teaches the invention as claimed above, but does not expressly disclose a plurality of screw threads formed on an outside surface. Regarding claim 18, Hayashi et al. teaches a lens holder; a plurality of lenses; said lens holder including first and second parts assembled to each other; a lateral opening; at least one lens inserted into a cavity derived from the partition from the exterior through the lateral opening before the second part is assembled to the first

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part; and the lateral opening being hidden from the exterior after assembled to the first part, but does not expressly disclose a plurality of screw threads mounted on an exterior surface. Feng discloses a lens holder which has screw threads on the exterior surface of a round lens assembly. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include screw threads on the exterior surface of the lens assembly taught by Hayashi et al. since screw threads on the exterior surfaces of lens assemblies are well known in the art and screw threads provide a means to securely fasten a lens assembly to a lens mount easily without the use of any other hardware. Since the lens holder of Hayashi et al. is completely round with no protrusions and the lens holder of Feng is completely round, providing screw threads on an exterior surface of the lens assembly of Hayashi et al. would be practicable.

Regarding claims 14, 16 and 19-21, the combination of Hayashi et al. and Feng teach the top and bottom portions of each housing half has a semi-circular opening (Hayashi et al.); each partition platform of each housing half has a semi-circular opening which is aligned with the semi-circular openings through the top portion and bottom portion of the housing half (Hayashi et al.); the first part and second part are assembled in a lateral direction perpendicular to said axial direction (Hayashi et al.); the first part and second part are dimensioned and configured similar to each other (Hayashi et al.); and, a plurality of mounting pins are formed on the first and second parts, and a plurality of mounting holes engagingly receiving the mounting pins (Hayashi et al.).

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. (Japan Patent No. JP 61126513A) in view of Belliveau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,822).

Hayashi et al. teaches the invention as claimed above, but does not expressly disclose a funnel-shaped opening in the top portion of the lens holder. Belliveau et al. teaches a funnel-shaped opening when two halves of a lens assembly are assembled with each other in Fig. 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the lens holder of Hayashi et al. to include a funnel-shaped opening in the top portion as taught by Belliveau et al. since it is a natural design to bevel the front edge to clear the optical path for wide angle viewing as is well known in the art, and also since cleaning the front surface of the lens assembly becomes easier with a funnel-shaped opening. Since front of the lens holders of both Hayashi et al. and Belliveau et al. are round, the funnel shaped opening would be practicable if combined with Hayashi et al.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. (Japan Patent No. JP 61126513A) in view of Feng (U.S. patent No. 5,920,061) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Belliveau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,822).

The combination of Hayashi et al. and Feng teach the invention as claimed above, but do not teach a funnel shaped opening through the top portion of the housing. Belliveau et al. teaches a funnel-shaped opening when two halves of a lens assembly

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are assembled with each other in Fig. 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the lens holder of Hayashi et al. and Feng to include a funnel-shaped opening in the top portion as taught by Belliveau et al. since it is a natural design to bevel the front edge to clear the optical path for wide angle viewing as is well known in the art, and also since cleaning the front surface of the lens assembly becomes easier with a funnel-shaped opening. Since front of the lens holders of both Hayashi et al. and Belliveau et al. are round, the funnel shaped opening would be practicable if combined with Hayashi et al. The funnel shaped opening on an opening of a lens barrel is well known in the art and is completely independent of the external threads and mounting pins of the lens holder.

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to all pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



### ***Conclusion***


8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Moracchini (U.S. Patent No. 5,214,533) discloses a lens mount with mounting pins and mounting holes on two halves of a lens enclosure.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

### ***Telephone Numbers***

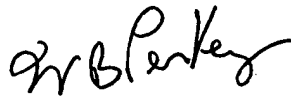
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rishi Suthar whose telephone number is 571-272-8456. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm.



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rishi Suthar  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2851

RS

**William Perkey**  
**Primary Examiner**